

BPAT Update

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Inside this Issue

Project Impact:

Building Disaster-Resistant Communities.
Program Highlights page 2

Ordering FEMA Publications page 2

The Building Performance Assessment
Team (BPAT) Program page 3

Did You Know?

Interesting Facts and Information
About the BPAT Program page 3

How You Can Become Part of the BPAT Program

Registration Form back page

A Welcome to BPAT Roster Members

The subject matter experts who compose the BPAT Roster are a central component of FEMA's response to our Nation's disasters. The information gleaned from post-disaster field investigations conducted by experts like you is critical to helping disaster-prone communities break the cycle of being damaged by natural hazards, repairing, and being damaged again.

Breaking this cycle is also the focus of FEMA's new predisaster mitigation initiative called **Project Impact: Building a Disaster-Resistant Community** (see article, page 2). As an important mitigation partner, we hope you will join us in promoting *Project Impact*.

James L. Witt

James L. Witt, Director, FEMA

FEMA Unveils BPAT Web Pages

Individuals can learn more about the BPAT program on the world wide web through FEMA's web site (www.fema.gov).

Prospective BPAT members and other interested persons can learn more about the BPAT program, read excerpts from past BPAT reports, and obtain information on recent BPAT activities.

Information is provided about the Technology Transfer process which leads to successful mitigation against natural hazards.

On the BPAT News page, BPAT members can check on recent BPAT deployments, release dates for FEMA publications, and any new BPAT activities.



Prospective members can also register on-line to receive more information about how to become a BPAT member. In addition, important links to the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) at the National Emergency Training Center and Project Impact are provided.

The BPAT home page can be found at www.fema.gov/mit/bpat



Project Impact: Building a Disaster-Resistant Community

is a nationwide initiative that aims to change the way America deals with disasters by encouraging communities to

come together to assess their vulnerabilities to natural hazards and implement strategies to limit damage before disasters occur.

"Communities across this country need to be prepared for disasters that we know are coming," said FEMA Director James L. Witt. "In Allegany County, a local partnership of government, businesses and private citizens has come together to reduce the costs and consequences of disasters. This type of activity is my number one priority."

In the past 10 years, FEMA has spent \$20 billion to help people repair and rebuild their communities after natural disasters. And that is not the total cost. Insurance companies spent additional billions in claims payments; businesses lost revenues; employees lost jobs;

other government agencies spent millions more. Worst of all, however, is the loss that can never be recovered: human life.

The increasing number and severity of natural disasters over the past decade demand that action be taken to reduce the threat that hurricanes, tornadoes, severe storms, floods, and fires impose upon the Nation's economy and the safety of its citizens.

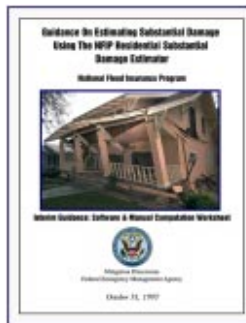


Currently, FEMA is developing partnerships with 57 communities across the country and is encouraged by the benefits seen and the determined commitment that is flourishing at the local level. FEMA has offered expertise and technical assistance from the national and regional levels and included other Federal agencies and states in the equation. In addition, FEMA has used all the available mechanisms to get the latest technology and mitigation practices into the hands of the local communities.

There is no doubt that Project Impact is a common sense approach for the way America deals with disasters. The incentive is clear: a disaster-resistant community is able to bounce back from a natural disaster with far less loss of property and consequently much less cost for repairs. Moreover, the time lost from productive activity is minimized for both businesses and their employees. Indeed, FEMA estimates that for every dollar spent in damage prevention, two are saved in repairs.

For more information about Project Impact, call 1-202-646-4600 or visit <http://www.fema.gov> on the World Wide Web.

Help for Damage Estimators



FEMA has recently released a beta version of a new software program and guidance document to help local building officials and floodplain administrators determine whether

buildings are substantially damaged as defined in the National Flood Insurance Program floodplain management regulations.

The document is titled *Guidance on Estimating Substantial Damage Using the NFIP Residential Substantial Damage Estimator*.

To obtain a copy of this publication (the software is included with the publication), call FEMA's publication office at **1-800-480-2520** and request publication FEMA 311.

Would you like to obtain copies of FEMA BPAT reports and other FEMA publications?

Published reports detailing Building Performance Assessment Team findings, conclusions, and recommendations are available to the public.

BPAT publications include reports for Hurricanes Andrew, Iniki, Opal, and Fran; the flood disasters in North Dakota and Minnesota; and the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

Call FEMA's publication office at **1-800-480-2520** for information.





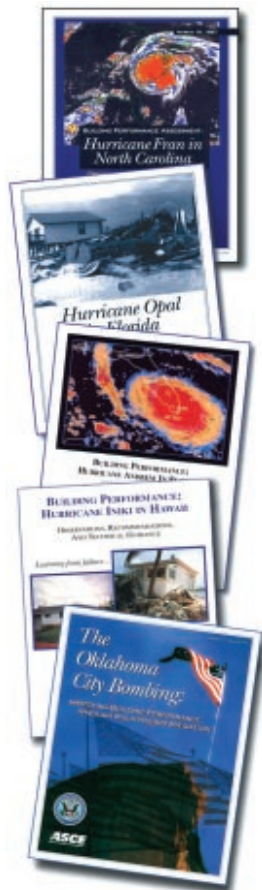
**Available
Soon!!!**

Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting

Six Ways to Protect Your House From Flooding

To order a copy of this guide, call FEMA's publication office at **1-800-480-2520**. Ask for publication FEMA 312.

Did You Know?



As of April 1998, FEMA has distributed the following numbers of BPAT reports:

Hurricane Fran in North Carolina
10,000

Hurricane Opal in Florida
3,000

Hurricane Andrew in Florida
20,000

Hurricane Iniki in Hawaii
5,000

The Oklahoma City Bombing
3,000

To order copies of these reports, call FEMA's publication office at **1-800-480-2520**.

The Building Performance Assessment Team Program

In response to hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and other disasters, the Federal Emergency Management Agency often deploys BPATs to conduct field investigations at disaster sites. BPATs inspect disaster-induced damages incurred by residential and commercial buildings and other structures; evaluate local design practices, construction methods and materials, building codes, and building inspection and code enforcement processes; and make recommendations regarding design, construction, and code issues. With the goal of reducing the damage caused by future disasters, the BPAT program is an important part of FEMA's hazard mitigation activities.



Learning from Failure...

Greenbelt, Maryland. G&O also provides technical and administrative support required for the BPAT program. Private sector members of BPATs work as consultants to G&O.

The BPAT database also serves as a source of experts who can help support FEMA's other hazard mitigation activities, such as conducting research and providing technical support to state and local governments in structure vulnerability assessment, hazard-resistant design and construction, and hazards awareness and mitigation training.

The ability to quickly form and deploy BPATs whose members have the required skills and expertise is essential to the success of the BPAT program. Therefore, FEMA created a national database of experts who are available for rapid deployment (within 48 hours of notification). The database is maintained by Greenhome & O'Mara, Inc., (G&O) an engineering firm based in



...Building on Success

YOU Can Become Part of the BPAT Program

Experts are Needed in the Following Fields:

- Structural and Civil Engineering
- Building Design and Construction
- Coastal Construction
- Flood-, Wind-, and Earthquake-Resistant Design and Construction
- Shoreline and Coastal Erosion
- Building Inspection
- Building Code Development and Enforcement



Are you interested in serving on FEMA Building Performance Assessment Teams or supporting other hazard mitigation activities carried out by FEMA? If you are an expert in one of the fields listed above and can be available for temporary field assignments on short notice, please let us know. Fill out the form below and return it by mail to:

Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc.

9001 Edmonston Road

Greenbelt, MD 20770

Attn: Eric Letvin, or you may fax your information to (301) 220-2606.

Name: _____

Expertise: _____

Company/Affiliation: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

Federal Emergency Management Agency

500 C St. SW.

Washington, DC 20472

MT-AO Room 411

